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Attorney Docket No. 12702-P02

**DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY
FOR PATENT APPLICATION**

As a below-named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post-office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

(LIST ALL INVENTORS)

CASALINI, Daniele

Via Piave 64

I-28845 Domodossola (VB)

ITALY

A citizen of ITALY

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled **SURFACE-COATED HARD MATERIAL, PRODUCTION METHOD FOR THIS, AND USE OF THE SAME, the specification of which is disclosed in U.S. Application Serial No. 09/621,788, filed 17 July 2000.**

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified application specification, including the claims.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information known to me that is material to patentability in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code §119(e)(1) and §120, of the United States Application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United State Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information that is material to patentability in accordance with Title

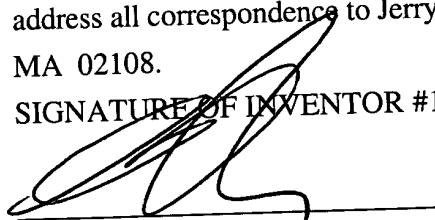
37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56, and which became available to me between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application: German Application No. 199 33 710.1, filed July 19, 1999.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment or both under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United State Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

POWER OF ATTORNEY

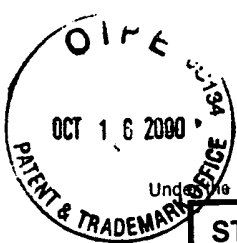
I, hereby appoint Jerry Cohen, Esq., Reg. No. 20,522, Stephen Y. Chow, Esq., Reg. No. 31,338, Jacob N. Erlich, Reg. No. 24,338, Christine M. Kuta, Reg. No. 38,001, Dr. Chester A. Bisbee, (Reg. No. 44,538), and Harvey Kaye, Reg. No. 18,978, and Perkins, Smith & Cohen, One Beacon Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02108, jointly, and each of them severally, my attorneys at law with full power of substitution to prosecute this application to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith. Please direct all telephone calls to Jerry Cohen at (617) 854-4000. Please address all correspondence to Jerry Cohen at Perkins, Smith & Cohen, One Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02108.

SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR #1



Daniele CASALINI

DATE: 21.09.00



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PTO/SB/09 (12-97)
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Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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**STATEMENT CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS
(37 CFR 1.9(f) & 1.27(b))--INDEPENDENT INVENTOR**

Docket Number (Optional)
12707 P03

Applicant, Patentee, or Identifier: Daniele Casalini
Application or Patent No.: 09/621,788
Filed or Issued: 7/17/2000
Title: SURFACE-COATED HARD MATERIAL, PRODUCTION METHOD FOR THIS, AND
USE OF THE SAME

As a below named inventor, I hereby state that I qualify as an independent inventor as defined in 37 CFR 1.9(c) for purposes of paying reduced fees to the Patent and Trademark Office described in:

- ☐ the specification filed herewith with title as listed above.
- ☒ the application identified above.
- ☐ the patent identified above.

I have not assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed, and am under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license, any rights in the invention to any person who would not qualify as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person had made the invention, or to any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

Each person, concern, or organization to which I have assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed or am under an obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license any rights in the invention is listed below:
☒ No such person, concern, or organization exists.

☐ Each such person, concern, or organization is listed below.

Separate statements are required from each named person, concern, or organization having rights to the invention stating their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27)

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.23(b))

Daniele Casalini
NAME OF INVENTOR

Signature of inventor

NAME OF INVENTOR

Signature of inventor

NAME OF INVENTOR

Signature of inventor

21.08.00
Date

Date

Date